



CARVED HOUSE AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

CARVED HOUSE, STRATFORD-ON-AVON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE natal town of Shakspeare possesses few ancient houses of higher character than that shown as his birthplace, which originally was a habitation fit for a substantial yeoman. The elaborate ornaemental carving, which is so profusely displayed in the neighbouring towns of Coventry and Warwick, meets with no

counterpart here. It is probable, however, that Stratford at one period boasted similar decorated mansions, some of which may have been destroyed in the fatal fire which consumed a great part of this town in the seventeenth century. The house depicted in our engraving stands in the High-street, but a few yards from the site of New-place, the residence of Shakspeare, and his eye must have been frequently

arrested by its quaint carving and picturesque appearance. Beneath the window of the first floor is the date 1596, carved upon the beam, above which are the initials W. R., with on one side T. R., and on the other A. R. These indicate the family of the builders, as a reference to the town books shews that a thriving trader, one Wm. Rogers, resided at that period in this house.